



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards – Puerto Rico

2005 Grant Awards:

Islanet, Inc.

Orocovis, Zona Urbana

Grant Amount: \$568,569

Contact: Gary Lasher, 787-999-4500

County: Orocovis Municipio

This project will bring broadband to Orocovis, Zona Urbana, a small community located in the mountains of rural Puerto Rico. Orocovis, population 909, has high levels of unemployment and struggles to attract businesses due to lack of infrastructure such as broadband. Transporting telecommunication signals from the main hub in San Juan to this mountainous area requires three microwave line of sight paths. From a local microwave tower on the mountain, there is a line-of-sight to the Orocovis community. The project will use non-line-of-sight (NLOS) wireless technology to connect to the residential population of the area and the community center. The project will also connect the hospital, police station, firehouse, school, community center and public offices. Benefits to the community include: access to distance learning materials, use of online job postings, access to online government services, programs and resources.